SUBMISSION OF REPLACEMENT DRAWINGS

The Office Action reports that drawings are missing from the subject application.

Applicants have checked their files and confirmed that one sheet of drawings was, in fact, mailed with the application papers at the time of filing. Also, the Patent Office acknowledged receipt of the one sheet of drawings, as evidenced by the return postcard, a copy of which is enclosed. The postcard is stamp dated September 29, 2005, and shows receipt of 1 sheet of drawing.

Applicants request that a search be made of Patent Office files to locate the missing drawings. In the event that the drawings originally filed are not found, Applicants request that the enclosed sheet, labeled "1/1" and "Replacement Sheet," be entered in the file in replacement of the originally filed drawings.

REMARKS

Amendment to Claims

Claim 6 is amended to more particularly point out that the ignition element (5 in Fig. 1) includes an end facing the supporting floor (2) and a conical flank (8) about the end, and that the elastic sealing element (4) is arranged between the conical flank (8) and supporting floor (2) to space the end apart from the supporting floor. See page 3, lines 10-12, of the application as filed. The amendments only make explicit that which was shown in the Figures and described in the specification as originally filed, and no new matter is added.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Office Action reports that copies of foreign patent documents listed in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on 11/09/06 were omitted. Copies of German patent documents DE 19732650 and DE 10203710 are enclosed.

It is respectfully requested that the German patent documents be made of record and considered.

Objection to the Specification

The disclosure has been objected to in that headings were omitted, that the listing of drawings was incomplete.

A substitute specification, minus the claims, is enclosed. The substitute specification includes proper headings and a brief description of all drawings. Also, an abstract of the disclosure is included. A marked-up copy is also attached pursuant to Section 714 of the MPEP. No new matter is introduced.

Applicants respectfully request that the enclosed substitute specification be entered and that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC § 103

Claims 6 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Kordel et al. (US/2005/0034595) in view of Leaman (US 2,931,874).

Fig. 1 of Kordel '595 shows a pyromechanical disconnecting device having a housing 1 with a receiving space and a supporting floor to contain an ignition element 2. The ignition element 2 has a first end that faces a cutting chisel 12 and a second end that is located opposite of the first end. The second end of the ignition element 2 faces and directly abuts the supporting floor. The Office Action acknowledges that Kordel '595 does not disclose an elastic sealing element arranged about the ignition element and the supporting floor, one of the key factor of Applicants' invention.

The Examiner relied on Leaman '874 to make up the deficiency. Best shown in Fig. 1 of Leaman '874 is an explosive switch having a detonator 22 arranged in a housing between a sleeve and a cap. The detonator 22 includes one end being in engagement with a shoulder 23 formed in the sleeve and an opposing second end being in sealing engagement with a felt washer 24 that is disposed between the detonator and the cap. Leaman '874 teaches that the felt washer 24 is compressed into sealing engagement with the detonator and the cap during assembly, see column 2, lines 45-55.

In contrast to Leaman '874, in Applicants' invention, the ignition element is spaced apart from the supporting floor of the housing. In one aspect, this is accomplished by an elastic element located between a conical flank of the ignition element and the supporting floor of the housing. The elastic element cooperates with the conical flank and supporting floor to act as an axial tolerance compensator by effectively spacing the end of the ignition element apart from the supporting floor (second paragraph, page 3 of application as originally submitted). Furthermore, the elastic element is disposed about the conical flank of the ignition element and spaced apart from the connecting pins; thereby allowing the connecting pins to be inserted into the bores without undue interference during assembly. Leaman '874 does not show an elastic element disposed between a conical flank of the ignition element and supporting floor to space the end of the ignition element apart from the supporting floor for axial compensation. The element shown in Leaman '874, compressed between the detonator and cap, is a felt washer and not an elastic element as disclosed in Applicants' application. The felt washer fully occupies the space between the detonator and cap, and surrounds the bores 19 in the cap through which the pins 27 are inserted.

Claim 6 calls for a pyromechanical disconnecting device having an ignition element that includes an end having a conical flank facing the supporting floor, and an elastic sealing element

arranged between the conical flank and the supporting floor and effective to space the end apart from the supporting floor. Kordel '595 does not disclose an elastic sealing element arranged about the ignition element and the supporting floor. Leaman '874 provides a felt washer and therefore, does not overcome the shortcomings of Kordel '595. Neither Kordel '595 nor Leaman '874, separately or in combination, shows an ignition element that includes an end having a conical flank facing the supporting floor, and an elastic sealing element arranged between the conical flank and the supporting floor and effective to space the end apart from the supporting floor as called for in claim 6.

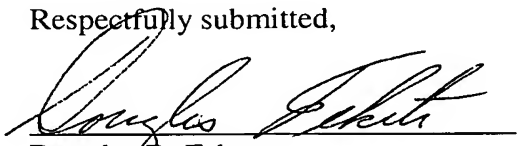
Claim 6 is patentably distinguishable over Kordel '595 in view of Leaman '874. Claim 7 ultimately depend from claim 1 and thus includes the distinguishing features of claim 6. Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 6 and 7 be withdrawn and that the claims be allowed.

Conclusion

It is believed, in view of the amendments and remarks herein, that all claims are in condition for allowance. If it would further prosecution of the application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the phone number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,



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ATTACHMENT C

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Applicant: VON BEHR ET AL

Title: HOUSING CONFIGURATION FOR A .....

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Attorney: MC BAIN

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